

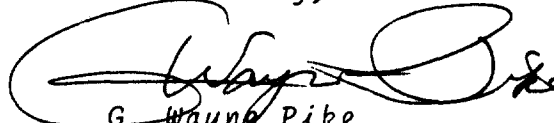
Page 2

The Honorable Reed D. Hundt

can tell you now that the tax payers in this area support my ideas in this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention to my correspondence.

Sincerely,



G. Wayne Pike
Sheriff

GWP:ats

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
The Honorable Rick Boucher, Congressman
The Honorable L. F. Payne, Congressman
The Honorable Charles S. Robb, Senator
The Honorable John W. Warner, Senator
APCC Inmate Phone Service Providers Task Force
Billy R. Branson, County Administrator



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226

THOMAS A. COUGHLIN III
COMMISSIONER

RECEIVED

AUG 3 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference
CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I'm writing this letter so that I go on record stating that I am against extending "Billed Party Preference" (BPP) to correctional facilities. I believe that such action will provide very little benefit and will, in fact, create significant problems.

Before I discuss my issues, let me describe the Inmate Call Home Program in New York State.

- The New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) currently has approximately 66,000 inmates in 68 facilities located throughout New York State. Each day, inmates place approximately 90,000 calls and complete about 25,000 calls.
- Inmates are allowed to place calls from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily. Each inmate is allowed 15 active phone numbers on his or her call list. We also maintain a very extensive list of telephone numbers that inmates are not allowed to call.
- There are no live operators involved in the calling. We have bilingual messages that give the inmate and the called party instructions and any necessary feedback if a problem is encountered.
- Call processing is fairly complex. We have developed applications on our mainframe computer that allow inmate counselors to register telephone numbers for an inmate's calling list. The system also takes the daily call detail records for completed and incompleted calls and stores them for later reference as required for operational or investigative purposes. Calls are actually processed through hardware and software located at each facility supplied by Value Added Communications (VAC).

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- The VAC system was selected via competitive procurement in which nine bids were received. The VAC contract will end March 31, 1997. At the end of the contract, we will own the hardware and software.
- The VAC system is downloaded nightly with new inmate registration data and other operational data, such as inmate loss of telephone privileges, etc. During this nightly processing, VAC sends us the call detail records for the day.
- Our network is comprised of approximately 2500 State-owned telephones connected to 130 T-1's provided by 10 local carriers via long-term lease arrangements. Long distance service is provided by Rochester Telephone as a subcontractor to VAC.
- The rates charged are the dominant carrier (AT&T or NYNEX) rates for both local and long distance traffic.
- Currently, commission revenues paid by VAC to the Department average \$15 million annually. Over 95% of this money is spent on program services for inmates including bus trips for family visits, cable TV, postage, AIDS education and AIDS medication. If the inmate programs lost this revenue source, it is unlikely the State legislature will appropriate funds for most of these programs. We will also have to ask for about \$5 million in funding to run the Call Home Program, since our contractor will not be providing this service from commission revenue. In our view, BPP preference will cost the Department \$5 million and the inmates could lose up to \$15 million in program benefits.

My more specific concerns are as follows:

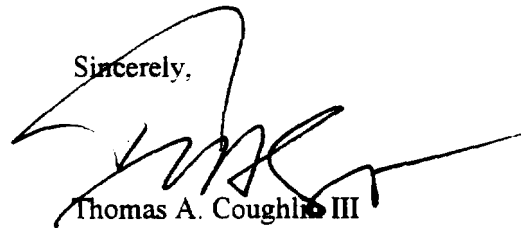
- 1) I do not understand how our telephones can be considered public telephones. We do not run a hotel and our guests have no freedom of choice. The constant work and expense we have to go through to provide inmate access, while meeting a competing need for public safety; coupled with the fact that only registered inmates can gain access and use these telephones places us in a rather unique category.
- 2) Experience has taught us to avoid live operators to limit problems. With BPP, when inmates experience problems gaining access, how will the carrier of choice provide feedback to the inmates without live operator intervention? How are we going to get call detail information from each carrier for our files? The importance of this cannot be minimized and not just from the law enforcement investigative perspective. We often work with the inmates and families to resolve problems with the telephone service providers. Without automated and well coordinated data, we are out of the loop to help resolve problems. I want to be very clear about this one thing; live operators and unreliable data are not an acceptable alternative.

July 27, 1994

- 3) As you can see from my description of the New York State program, we have developed an extensive collection of systems to meet our communication needs. To keep prices down and to maximize revenue, we have made several long-term contractual commitments. If you move forward with BPP, our contracts are void and useless; we basically have to start from scratch again. In the ensuing process, I believe that there is a risk that the network and number of stations could shrink significantly. The result would be increased tension in the facilities and all the risks that follow.
- 4) We have taken the time over the past several years to understand not only the technology of telecommunications, but also the business/market. We lock up the best rates we can on the regulated side of things and use competition on the deregulated side to get good products and pricing. Your actions will basically make the competition dry up and the prison niche will become stagnant, void of competitive pressure. Where is the benefit in all this?

When you last excluded correctional facilities from BPP, I was pleased because I thought you understood why it would be inappropriate and how it could damage a system that actually helps all involved as it currently stands. I strongly urge you to continue to exclude correctional facilities from BPP. Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Coughlin III
Commissioner

cc: Hon. James H. Quello
[REDACTED]
Hon. Rachelle B. Chong
Hon. Susan Ness

3505 PINEHAVEN DRIVE
CHARLESTON HEIGHTS, SC 29405-7789



TELEPHONE (803) 554-4700
FAX (803) 554-9744

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J. AL CANNON, JR., ESQ.
SHERIFF, CHARLESTON COUNTY

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party
Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

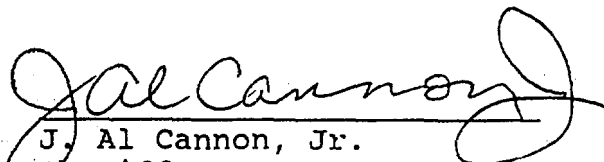
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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
July 26, 1994
Page Two

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions - decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

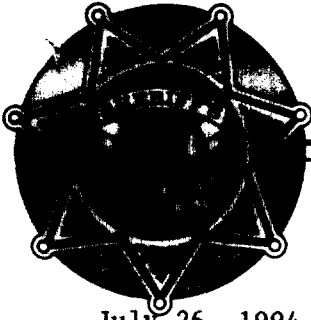
Respectfully submitted,



J. Al Cannon, Jr.
Sheriff

Charleston County Detention Facility
3883 Leeds Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-7482

/mr



Alameda County Sheriff's Department

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ALAMEDA COUNTY JAIL-SANTA RITA, 5325 BRODER BLVD., DUBLIN, CA 94568 (415) 551-6500

CHARLES C. PLUMMER, SHERIFF
MARSHAL - CORONER - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

July 26, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: Billed Party Preference, CC Docket Number 92-77

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

As Sheriff of Alameda County, and a Jail Administrator, I am requesting that the Federal Communications Commission exclude local jails from the proposed "billed party preference" system for 0+ Inter LATA pay phone traffic rules.

While there may be ways to prevent fraud under B.P.P., we would be losing our ability to closely monitor phone calls during investigations and would likely lose our ability to quickly block calls to protect victims and witnesses from intimidation and family and friends from unwanted calls and harassment. These issues are very important to me and the citizens of Alameda County.

Eliminating the 0+ commissions received quarterly would have the effect of earning a host of unfunded mandates. California jails have Inmate Welfare Funds which are by law to provide for programs, services and facilities for inmates. Telephone commissions are the primary, in some cases sole, source of revenue for the Inmate Welfare Fund. Many of these programs and services are now mandated by law and the courts, primarily the Federal courts. Elimination of commission revenues would force jails to tap already strapped budgets to fund these mandates.

The services and programs provided by the Inmate Welfare Fund includes Adult Education, GED Programs, basic literacy training, job training, substance abuse and family counseling, Chaplains, religious services and many more. Even basics such as supplying indigent inmates with personal hygiene supplies and letter writing material are provided for by this fund.

The revenues from our inmate telephone system could not be replaced. Local government does not have the funds to pay for the many programs financed with these revenues. We purchase recreation and exercise equipment and fund our law libraries along with paying the staff who supervise and manage these programs.

Without telephone revenues, all these programs would end. These are not just programs for the inmates. The education, training and counseling provided help these people become productive, law abiding individuals rather than a burden to the taxpayers.

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Billed Party Preference, CC Docket Number 92-77

July 26, 1994

Page 2

Before you make any decision, please stop and listen to the thousands of local jails that will be dramatically and adversely impacted by your failure to exclude them from the B.P.P. System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. C. Plummer", written over a horizontal line.

100.

Charles C. Plummer
Sheriff/Coroner



WILLIAM D. SLEEPER
County Administrator

Halifax County Board of Supervisors

P.O. Box 786
Halifax, Va. 24558-0786
Telephone (804) 476-2141
Fax (804) 476-4241

July 29, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

SUPERVISORS
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T. E. WEST

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference
CC Docket # 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write on behalf of the Halifax County, Virginia Board of Supervisors to oppose the Billed Party Preference (BPP) proposal. After discussions with the Sheriff of Halifax County who operates the Halifax County Jail, it is our belief that BPP will have a detrimental impact on the ability of the County to provide its inmates reasonable access to telephone service, and the ability of the County to control harassing or intimidating calls. Further, there is a potential loss of revenue which benefits inmates.

The County entered into a contract to provide inmate telephone service several years ago. Prior to that time, only a single telephone was available for inmates, and inmates had to be taken one (1) at a time to the phone room by a Correctional Officer. The inmate telephone system allowed for the installation of several additional telephones, thus increasing inmate access to outside communications. As our inmate population has increased over the years to where we now house 60-70 inmates on an average day, the multiple telephone capability has certainly been beneficial. Further, a Correctional Officer is no longer required to escort an inmate to the telephone room, thereby freeing that Officer for other duties.

Should Billed Party Preference be approved, the Sheriff could lose the ability to utilize number blocking to prevent inmates from placing harassing or intimidating calls to Judges, attorneys, witnesses, or victims.

The revenue generated by the inmate telephone system is utilized by the Sheriff to benefit the inmates. State and local funding for Jail operations is limited, with this funding providing the necessities for the inmates. The revenue generated by the inmate telephone

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Chairman Hundt

Page 2

July 29, 1994

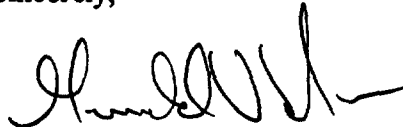
system does not go into the County's General Fund. Rather, it is used for purchases that return to the inmates in the form of recreational activities, reading materials, and other such items that quite possibly could not be provided were it not for this revenue. Virginia statutes mandate that revenues from this type of service be so utilized.

We believe that the rate structure with our existing inmate telephone system is fair and reasonable. In the several years we have had this system, there has only been one (1) complaint of an excessive charge. This complaint was resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. The fact that there has been only one (1) complaint out of the hundreds of calls is a clear indication that the rate structure is reasonable.

On behalf of Halifax County, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to disapprove the Billed Party Preference proposal. I believe the adverse impacts of Billed Party Preference far outweigh any benefit.

Halifax County appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Gerald V. Lovelace

Assistant County Administrator for Operations

GVL:sb

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Susan Ness

LARRY A. FIELDS
DIRECTOR



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DAVID WALZERS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OUACHITA CORRECTIONAL CENTER

July 29, 1994

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

If BPP goes into effect, it will have a devastating effect on our facility. If we don't have the ability to control inmate calling, then it will be no problem at all for inmates to harass judges, witnesses and jury members involved in their convictions--or even the victims of their crimes.

Inmates have used the two-second window when the operator asks for the caller's name to yell out their obscenities and/or make threats. We had one inmate that called his ex-wife repeatedly over a period of four weeks harassing and threatening her. The only way we found out about it was when she called and complained. We were then able to place a block on the phone. With call forwarding and three-way calling technology, it is very easy to by-pass a block on a phone.

In reference to fraud issues, inmates obtained a number to an international operator. They, in turn, advised the operator they had dialed the wrong number and would ask the operator to re-dial the number for them. The call would then be sent back to one or more U. S. operators which resulted in lower revenues and made it difficult to bill the call. It also is a method to avoid the block on the phone.

On several occasions we have been able to monitor telephone conversations in regards to escape plans and conspiracy to introduce contraband into this facility.

In addition, we would lose our current phone system. We would have to go back to the number of phones we had prior to our existing phone system--from twelve to three. Three phones are not adequate for a five hundred-man facility; that is, if we can afford the



The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
July 29, 1994
Page 2

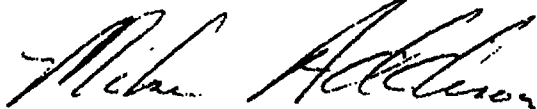
cost-per-line charge. There is no feasible way we can afford a sophisticated phone system like the one we currently have with our existing budget.

We would also lose revenue that goes into the inmate welfare and recreation fund that is used to purchase sports equipment, satellite systems, supplies for cook-outs, visiting/game shelters for inclement weather, etc.

We are sensitive to the rate inmate families pay for calls. We do, however, feel that BPP is not the answer to the problem. The best method to solve the problem is to contractually require rate ceilings from your provider.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions--decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael K. Addison, Warden

GB:lc

cc: The Honorable Hanes H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
Jim West, Administrator, Information Services
Casey D. Warren, Deputy Warden
File

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FLORIDA



SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 12519 • Tallahassee, Florida 32317-2519
Telephone (904) 877-2165 • FAX (904) 878-8665

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July 28, 1994

AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference, CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter represents the Florida Sheriffs Association's opposition to Billed Party Preference (BPP) as it applies to detention facilities. As the representative of the sixty-seven (67) Sheriffs of the state of Florida, we strongly urge you to exempt detention facilities from any implementation of BPP. We believe that inmates and detention facilities create a unique situation and BPP would severely have a negative impact on all detention facilities in Florida.

Our first concern is the safety and welfare of the citizens of Florida and security of the detention facilities. BPP would take away each jails ability to control inmate calling. As a result, creating greater opportunity for inmates to commit abuses including telephone fraud, planning escapes, and carrying on gang activity from within the jail. Even more importantly, BPP would conceivably allow inmates to harass victims, judges and witnesses because the facility would no longer be able to block numbers or have direct control over the telephone system. This clearly creates a security problem and undermines our main duty as law enforcement officers, which is to protect our citizens.

Currently, we have contractual agreements chosen by competitive bid by each facility and developed for the specific needs of each facility. These service providers install number blocking, PINS and allow for screening out numbers. These controls are necessary for the security of the facility as well as the people of Florida. It is imperative that jail administrators are in control of how inmate calls are routed.

We are also determined to make sure these service providers adhere to their contractual obligations and diminish any chance for overcharging.

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FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, INC

Boys Ranch, Youth Villa, Youth Ranch, Youth Camp, Caruth Camp

Honorable Reed E. Hundt
July 28, 1994
Page Two

Our second concern is the huge loss of revenue BPP would cause for inmate welfare programs. Monies received from commissions on inmate calls must be used to fund programs that benefit the overall welfare of inmates. Many drug rehabilitation programs, physical and mental fitness programs and other amenities are purchased from these commissions. To include detention facilities within BPP would effectively eliminate hundreds of thousands of dollars in commissions being used to benefit inmates. I predict that this will effectively end these important programs, or force local taxpayers to shoulder the burden when, under the current arrangement, inmates pay for such programs themselves.

The Florida Sheriffs Association and the Sheriffs of Florida strongly urge you to exempt detention facilities from BPP and allow individual detention facilities to maintain control over inmate calling, thus ensuring security and future revenues benefiting all inmates.

Sincerely,



J. M. "Buddy" Phillips
Executive Director

JMP/Tcb

cc: Honorable James H. Quello
Honorable Andrew C. Barrett ✓
Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
Honorable Susan Ness

August 1, 1994

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The Honorable
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear COMMISSIONER BARRETT

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

Name/Title

Name of Correctional Facility

Address

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P.S.
why is it when things are operating
good, someone always wants to mess
a good deal up? Doc

August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

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Respectfully submitted,

cc, The Honorable James H. Quillo
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chon
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

Name/Title ED Maxon

Name of Correctional Facility Salvation Army

Address 1855 S. Lancaster
FW TX 76107

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M. L. STALLINGS
SHERIFF OF HALIFAX COUNTY
P. O. Box 36
Halifax, NC 27839

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OFFICE: (919) 583-8201
FAX: (919) 583-2698

July 29, 1994

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We would like to voice strong opposition to the application of Billed Party Preference at inmate facilities.

Since the Halifax County Detention Center contracted with a single carrier, who provides phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate cells, we have received very few complaints from the public reference annoying obscene and unsolicited calls from inmates at our Detention Facility.

Inmates at our facility are permitted to use the telephone that is provided in the cellblock, at their leisure throughout the day, resulting in high morale. We have not received complaints from the inmates, nor their families, concerning the cost of the calls.

If there is concern about rates, consideration should be given in setting a fair rate ceiling. In fact, if given a choice, we would forego any revenue received for calls, resulting in a reduction of rates charged to inmates, in order to prevent fraud, abusive calls, and breach of security at our facility.

Sincerely,

M. L. Stallings
Halifax County Sheriff

MLS/oph

xc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Charles B. Webster, Sheriff
Room 2275, Joint Law Enforcement Center
401 Walton Way
Augusta, Georgia 30911-2275
706 821-1065
FAX (706) 821-1064

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July 26, 1994

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Please be advised that the Billed Party Preference will create a serious problem with security problems at the Richmond County Jail. The passage of this law would open the jail facility for fraud, as well as the public.

One other fact, if the BPP is passed it would put an undue burden on jails already declining operating funds and put already stressed court ordered mandates at risk.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (706) 821-1111.

Sincerely,

William E. Johnson
Captain/Asst. Jailer
Richmond County Sheriff's Department
401 Walton Way, Rm. B275
Augusta, Georgia 30911

WEJ/smd

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness

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August 1, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

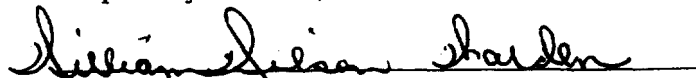
We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,


Name/Title

Bent County Correctional Facility
Name of Correctional Facility

11560 County Rd. FF.75, Las Animas, CO 81054
Address

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July 28, 1994

AUG 3 1994

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: Billed Party Preference

Sir:

If Billed Party Preference (BPP) is to be instituted in order to benefit the public, then please act in the best interest of the vast majority of the American public. Protect the 255+ million free citizens and millions of businesses from the 1.4 million prisoners who have seriously broken the law, are in jail and are due punishment. Even if we consider the families and friends of the prisoners, we can barely justify 20 million people potentially being affected regardless of the structure of BPP.

But, every resident and business with a phone can be victimized over and again by a prisoner wanting to vent frustration or continue criminal behavior even while in jail.

BY NOT APPLYING BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE TO INMATE PHONE SERVICES, THE FCC WILL HAVE ACTED TO PROTECT OVER 90% OF THE GOOD AMERICAN PUBLIC AND ALLOWED THE STRICT CONTROL OF INMATE CALLING TO REMAIN IN PLACE AS IT IS TODAY.

If the cost of the call to the called party is a concern, then addressing a tariff or other guidelines for ISP's (Inmate Service Providers) is a viable approach that allows today's inmate call controls to remain effective.

To protect the vast majority of the law abiding public, I ask that you vote against Billed Party Preference as it would apply to inmate phone services.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Wayne Donaldson
859 Westbriar Court
Mobile, Alabama 36609

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List ABCDE



King County
Department of Adult Detention
Arthur Wallenstein, *Director*
King County Correctional Facility
500 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-2332
(206) 296-1268 FAX (206) 296-0570

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

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AUG 3 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 26, 1994

Governor Mike Lowry
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Governor Lowry:

I am writing to alert you to the difficult circumstances "billed party preference" will cause crime victims and witnesses, and private companies. Ten years ago inmates called victims and witnesses to harass and threaten them. These calls were made possible because the phones were unrestricted, prior to the present inmate telephone systems. Witnesses would answer the phone not knowing who they were talking to, and be verbally threatened and harassed before they realized who was calling. Now, with the present collect phone system, victims and witnesses are able to refuse calls from inmates before the inmate has a chance to threaten and intimidate them.

The fraudulent behavior of inmates using unrestricted phones was also extraordinarily costly to phone companies, individuals, and other private companies. An inmate would secure an illegal calling card number (or several numbers) and sell them to other inmates throughout the jail. The inmates would make fraudulent calls, and the public would call the jail and insist that inmates be restricted from telephones.

Under court order inmates cannot, in general, be restricted from the phones. Neither the public calling nor the jail could determine who among the thousands of inmates were making the calls. The cost of the bills ranged in the hundreds of dollars, up to \$25,000 for one company. Inmates were calling Europe, Canada, and other foreign countries, and talking for long periods of time. Inmates would call telephone answering services, hospital switch boards and others, duping the operators into putting calls through for them, until the billings alerted the companies to the criminal phone behavior.

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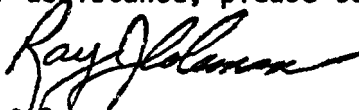
Governor Mike Lowry
July 26, 1994
Page 2

Inmates cannot use calling card numbers over the present inmate phone system to make fraudulent calls, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Consider that there are 500,000 inmates locked up in U.S. jails on any given day, and there are at least 10 million prisoners going thorough our country's jails each year. This incredible large number of inmates make the potential costs of fraudulent phone behavior staggering. All of these problems have been worked on over the past 10 years and resolved through the present inmate phone system. Victims and witnesses are now protected, and fraudulent phone calls from jails have been virtually stopped.

The King County Department of Adult Detention requests that you consider the concerns and welfare of victims, witnesses, and companies that were at the mercy of these inmates, who committed fraudulent acts of illegal phone usage in the past, but who can no longer do so because of the current inmate phone systems.

I am certain prosecutors, criminal judges, police, and victims assistance, who hear complaints regarding the above inmate acts, would agree that the inmate phone system has proven successful in substantially stopping the past practice of the inmates criminal phone behavior.

Please maintain the present inmate phone regulations, allowing for reasonable and responsible inmate access to phones. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at (206) 296-1269.



Ray J. Coleman
Associate Director-Services

RJC/lg
r.10w



King County
Department of Adult Detention
Arthur Wallenstein, *Director*
King County Correctional Facility
500 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-2332
(206) 296-1268 FAX (206) 296-0570

July 25, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
1919 M. Street-R. 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to alert you to the difficult circumstances "billed party preference" will cause crime victims and witnesses, and private companies. Ten years ago inmates called victims and witnesses to harass and threaten them. These calls were made possible because the phones were unrestricted, prior to the present inmate telephone systems. Witnesses would answer the phone not knowing who they were talking to, and be verbally threatened and harassed before they realized who was calling. Now, with the present collect phone system, victims and witnesses are able to refuse calls from inmates before the inmate has a chance to threaten and intimidate them.

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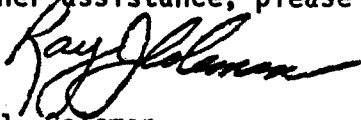
The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
July 25, 1994
Page 2

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Ray J. Coleman
Associate Director-Services

RJC/lg
r.fcc

cc: The Honorable James H. Quello
The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong
The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett
The Honorable Susan Ness
APCC Inmate Phone Service Providers Task Force



King County
Department of Adult Detention
Arthur Wallenstein, *Director*
King County Correctional Facility
500 Fifth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-2332
(206) 296-1268 FAX (206) 296-0570

July 26, 1994

U.S. Senator Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE

Dear Senator Murray:

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